

**William Dunbar to Thomas Jefferson, June 1, 1804,  
from Thomas Jefferson and Early Western Explorers,  
Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W. Gawalt,  
Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

**William Dunbar to Thomas Jefferson**

Natchez 1st June 1804

Dear Sir

I am honored with your letter of the 15th of April, accompanied by the instructions for the person who is to conduct the expedition up the Red river: I have already informed you in my last of the difficulty of finding a person here duely qualified, & should we in the end be obliged to accept of a person of moderate talents, it will probably in that case be proper to reserve the chief command for Doctor Hunter.

I have now the pleasure of enclosing you my remarks respecting the theory of rivers: by a letter from Mr. Vaughan, I find that my paper on the Mississippi concludes the 6th Vol. of transactions, I had no idea that it could have appeared so soon, or I should not have been so dilatory in transmitting the appendix; as it now comes too late, you will be pleased to forward it or not as you think proper;

Were it not a degree of intrusion on my part, I would solicit, when perfectly at leisure, your opinion respecting my remarks.

Understanding that the mail is closing I have been obliged to hurry over this letter.

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With the highest respect I have the honor to be, Your most obedient servant, William Dunbar

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